



HF Happenings

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HF Happenings is now on the SARL web

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from the League web site on the HF Happenings page at www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp. From HF Happenings 685 is available for download.

ICASA Licence Fees

Radio amateurs are requested to please pay your ICASA license fees directly into the ICASA bank account and not into the South African Radio League bank account. It is not the League's responsibility to pay your license fees to ICASA. All monies mistakenly paid into the League's account, will be seen as a donation and we thank you for the donation. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Pirate Alert!

Henry, 6Y5JH, whose station has been down since April 2015, reports that a pirate has been using his call sign and making QSOs on 30/17/12 meters. He is in the process of putting his station back on the air in about 2 months or so. He will make an announcement when he is back on the air.



World Amateur Radio Day

World Amateur Radio Day, observed every year on 18 April, marks the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union in 1925. Radio amateurs worldwide will take to the airwaves to celebrate amateur radio's contribution to society. The IARU has provided a World Amateur Radio Day poster, in two sizes: 61 x 91 cm and a small (A4) flyer that can be downloaded from www.iaru.org under the 'operating' tab. Amateurs are encouraged to promote their activity on social media by using the hashtag #WARD2016.

African DX

Africa DX Net - every Saturday afternoon from 14:00 UTC on 14,260 MHz hosted by Mike, V51MA, Leon, A25SL, and Tinus, ZS6MHK.

Rwanda, 9X. Mike, SQ3PMM, and his XYL are currently backpacking from various locations throughout Rwanda. He is active as 9X9MM on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB with a FT-857D and 100 watts. Most of his operations have been on 20 and 15 metres SSB and some slow CW. See their QSL info on QRZ.com. Also, visit their "Rainbow Truck" web page at www.rainbowtruck.pl

The Gambia, C5 (Update). QRZ DX reports Pedro, ON7WP, has cancelled his C5WP operation because Brussels Airlines could not warrant the transport of all his luggage of their charity project on the feeder flight from Liege-Belgium to Frankfurt-Germany, where his Gambia flight



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was relocated because Brussels airport is still closed after the brutal massacre by ISIS Muslim fundamentalist. Brussels Airlines also did not allow him to take along his extra Pelicase with radio equipment. Pedro will keep us updated on his new trip. In the meantime, he will be active from Belgium on 60 metre as ON7WP.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7
030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260
7 055 3 760 kHz

FT4JA Juan De Nova DXpedition News. The following press releases were posted by the FT4JA team:

31 March - "Hello from Juan de Nova! After our trip by boat we finally anchored nearby the lagoon entrance. It took a complete day to bring all equipment ashore, dealing with low and high tides in the lagoon.

We built the radio camp and antennas under extreme conditions. No wind at all during those first days. On nighttime, the temperature does not really decrease and we have thousands of mosquitoes showing up, looking for fresh meat. Hopefully the two tents are well done. The sea is close but very warm, with sharks coming very close to the seashore.

Prior to the expedition, we worked with satellite pictures. We met on the island a configuration slightly different from expected but we have been able to set-up all antennas as planned. The field around the camp is not a soccer field but rather a place with high that makes any move a challenge! In addition, there is spider as big as a man hand everywhere. That's Juan de Nova! Meanwhile, the lagoon and sky colours are just amazing!

We started the operation yesterday around 1230 UTC. We worked with as many stations as possible around the clock, depending on the operators shifts. The life camp is located a mile away from the shacks. During the first 24 hours, we did a bit more than 10 K QSOs. The first batch has been sent to Clublog and should be visible on the online-log soon.

Conditions are not too bad. We are meeting propagation close to our predictions. We always keep an eye on the planning not to miss any opening toward the "difficult regions of the globe." We ran on 160 and 80 m without any RX antennas but we should have them tonight to cover all parts of the world. The 6 m beacon is active.

Do not hesitate to drop a mail to our pilot if you have information to forward to the team. We are in touch through the BGAN terminal or via radio.

The team is now focused on the pile-up. Thanks for your co-operation, see you on the bands! 73, FT4JA Team"

April

- 2 - RaDAR Challenge
- 5 - All schools open
- 7 - SARL 80 m QSO Party
- 9 - SARL Autumn QRP Contest
- 10 - SARL Youth Net at 15:00 UTC on 7 070
- 18 - World Amateur Radio Day
- 22 - Earth Day
- 23 - Pesach (1st day)
- 24 - ZS4 Sprint
- 25 - Closing date for May Radio ZS articles
- 27 - Freedom Day
- 30 - Pesach (8th Day)

May

- 1 - Workers Day
- 2 - Public Holiday
- 5 - Ascension Day
- 7 and 8 - AWA Valve QSO Party
- 8 - Mother's Day; SARL Youth Net at 15:00 UTC on 7 070
- 12 - Radio Amateur Examination
- 15 - ZS3 Sprint
- 20 to 22 - Dayton Hamvention
- 23 - Closing date for June Radio ZS articles
- 25 - Africa Day
- 29 - SARL Digital Contest



2 April: "New report from Juan de Nova: lifestyle, pileup and RX" - Day 4 and first weekend. We have now entered in the daily routine of the DXpedition: operating, eating, sleeping. During the three first days, we kept a daily rate over the 10 K QSO.

Up to seven stations are on the air simultaneously. It is not possible of course to keep them all the time active with 10 ops. We are managing operator's shifts to activate as many of them during best propagation period.

Like Tromelin in 2014, the best band seems to be the 15 m. We try to keep one station on SSB and one on CW to maximize the chances and increase the number of unique call signs.

As expected, Europe is the simplest continent to work from here. We are doing our best to listen for Asia, Oceania and the Americas every time the propagation allows contacts. Please do not hesitate to report informations to our pilots if needed.

We improved a bit the RX system for 80/160 m but there is still an issue in EU/NA direction. Two phased pennants and reversible beverages have been installed. The one in direction of Japan is working fine. Already 800 stations have been logged on Top Band. We moved slightly our TX frequency because many reports have been received to complain about « fishing beacons » on 1 820.5. Check around 1 821 kHz.

A few words about the life on the island. The radio camp consists of two tents on the north beach. The life camp is 25 minutes walk away on the southern part of the island. We are trying to minimize our moves as much as possible because with heat and mosquitoes, all is complicated!"

Just a reminder, operations will continue until 11 April. QSL FT4JA via F5CWU, ClubLog's OQRS (recommended) or LoTW. After the end of the operation, you can order either a Bureau or direct QSL card using the OQRS provided by ClubLog. This method is by far the simplest way to proceed without having to send your own paper QSL!

As this was being written Sunday morning, the FT4JA team made 40 597 QSOs with 13 090 Unique call signs per ClubLog as of 04:48 UTC 3 April www.juandenovadx.com/en/online-log/ and <https://secure.clublog.org/logsearch/FT4JA>. Breakdown by modes are 18 364 CW, 18 275 SSB, and 3 958 RTTY. Breakdown by percentage by Continents are 1.0 AF, 0.0 AN, 13.4 AS, 59.7 EU, 24.3 NA, 1.0 OC and 0.5 SA. For more detailed information, see www.juandenovadx.com

VHF Happenings

SARL VHF/UHF contest

The results of the SARL VHF/UHF contest held on 19 and 20 March 2016 are as follows. Only nine logs were received although there were 56 stations on the air. No stations from Division 1 and 3 took part in this SARL contest.

1st Dick Coates, ZS6BUN - 91 312 points
2nd Carl Minne, ZS6CBQ - 77 080 points
3rd Christo Greyling, ZR6AUI/4 - 47 007 points

Base station Unlimited: Dick Coates, ZS6BUN - 91 312 points
Base station Limited A: Carl Minne, ZS6CBQ - 77 080 points
Base station Limited 4 Hours: Koos Greyvenstein, ZS6KSG - 24 769 points
Field station: Christo Greyling, ZR6AUI/4 - 47 007 points

Longest Distance:

6 metres - ZS6BUN to ZS2ACP - 881 km digital using FSK441
2 metres - ZS6BUN to ZS2ACP - 881 km digital using FSK441
4 metres - ZS6PTA to ZS6ARA - 25 km FM
70 cm - ZS6CBQ to ZR6AUI/4 - 152 km SSB

CQ-DATV Magazine

The free ATV Magazine CQ-DATV issue 34 is now available for download from www.cq-datv.mobi/34.php. In the issue you can read the DATV News; editorial; DATV-Express Project - February update report; Not so Vertical Collinear; Idea to finished project?; Raspberry pi Zero - preparing for software development tasks; Video router update; DATV-Express Project report; The problems of still pictures and flash guns - part 3; Caption contest; Information and Coming up

April Meteor Scatter

The Meteor Scatter (MS) season has started with the April meteor showers and will continue until the beginning of January next year. There are 88 annual meteor showers listed by astronomers of which the majority are minor showers, while a major shower will appear at least monthly from now until January. Meteoroids are debris from comets or asteroids and when these small particles, which vary in size, burn up in the upper atmosphere they leave visible meteor trails. These trails can also reflect VHF radio waves from 50 to 432 MHz and produce very strong radio bursts on 50 MHz and the radio bursts last a lot longer on this magic band.

Normally meteor bursts are only audible for a few seconds, but could increase up to several minutes during major showers. There are five minor showers present during the month of April to provide excellent contacts on the digital mode FSK441. A major shower, the Lyrids, will appear between 16 to 25 April 2016 and peak in the early morning of 22 April with an hourly rate that may vary from 18 trails to several dozen over different years and make possible SSB or FM communications which could cover distances up to 2 500 km. Meteor Scatter has a skip distance of 500 - 600 km on 50 MHz, but it increases on the higher VHF bands. Take up the challenge and give it a go on 50 MHz!

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter